

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia REPORT [REDACTED] 25X1

TOPIC 1. Billets in Bohumin and Military Labor Units in the Orlova - Karvina Area
2. Troops and Military Installations at and near Ostrava

EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 21 June 1954 25X1

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]

REMARKS [REDACTED] 60171

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1. On about 10 March 1954, Czech troops of about battalion size were observed at the barracks installation on the northern perimeter of Hadr. Bohumin (Oderberg railroad station, Q 50/O 59) and the east side of the road to Novy Bohumin (Neu Oderberg, Q 50/J 50). The installation consisted of five permanent barracks. The soldiers, whose branch of service was unidentified, included a strikingly large percentage of men who were between 35 and 40 years old. Units marching out of the installation carried rifles and submachine guns. Motor vehicles were never observed with the troops. Garages were not available at the barracks installation. Soldiers other than these infantrymen were never observed in or around Bohumin.¹
2. Prior to March 1954, soldiers of labor units were mainly quartered in barracks near the pits in the Orlova (Q 50/O 69) - Karvina (Q 50/O 69) area. Such a billeting area was located about 500 meters southwest of the Orlova railroad station. At this site about 500 soldiers wearing standard army uniforms with black epaulets without special insignia were quartered in a multi-story large quartering building. The unit was marched to its place of work in the coal pit. Czech civilians said that besides unreliable elements reliable inductees were assigned to labor units. The soldiers serving with the unit included numerous men from the Hlucin (P 50/O 49, Hultschiner Laendchen) area.²
3. From July 1953 to early March 1954, troops wearing army uniforms and equipped with artillery pieces were observed in the barracks installation on the south side of the Ostrava - Orlova road, between the towns of Hranecnik (P 50/O 53) and Hradvanice (Q 50/O 58), southeast of Ostrava. The tramway depot of the former Schlesische Landesbahnen was located just south of the installation. The trolley line ran along the south side of the installation. The installation consisted of one barrack, one vehicle storage shed with a small stable attached, and another permanent building

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Grading work was in progress on the terrain east of the billeting area. At least six guns, some of them covered with canvas, were parked at the southern edge of the barracks area. The guns were towed by low prime movers and had very long barrels reinforced at the muzzle. Source estimated that the installation quartered an estimated 100 men. No armored vehicles were seen in the area of the installation. Prior to March 1954, almost no armored vehicles were observed throughout the Ostrava - Bohumín - Karviná area. Source occasionally saw three or four armored vehicles which he believed to be personnel carriers. Soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were observed in the city area of Ostrava, but there was no proof of their connection with this installation.³

4. Prior to early March 1954, soldiers wearing army uniforms with red-violet collar patches, epaulets and cap bands were observed at the castle located in a park on the northwestern perimeter of Kuncice (P 50/O 58). The soldiers were very young men and were believed to be officer candidates. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] source once observed 50 soldiers. There was very little 25X1 activity outside the installation. Sedans occupied by military personnel frequently entered the castle area.⁴

5. Prior to early March 1954, [redacted] in the northern sector of Ostrava, three galleries with large entrances driven into the slope on the east side of ul. Bohumínská, which led from the city toward Muglinov (P 50/O 59). The entrances were just east of the streetcar tracks and were closed with steel doors. The southernmost gallery was used as an air raid shelter during World War II. The two other galleries were still under construction in March 1954. Field railway tracks led into these galleries. No troops were observed near these galleries. 25X1

6. Prior to March 1954, no border guard troops (P3) were observed in the Ostrava - Bohumín - Karviná area.⁵ 25X1

7. Guns of about 80 to 100-mm caliber whose barrels had muzzle brakes were parked at the barracks installation southeast of Ostrava and on the south side of the Ostrava - Olšova road opposite the tramway depot. On one occasion, 120 to 140 soldiers had lined up in the barracks yard. The soldiers, who wore khaki uniforms, presumably with black epaulets, were very young men who apparently had served their term of active service.³ Some heavy trucks were occasionally observed at the installation. Excavation work was in progress in the terrain adjoining the billets to the east.

8. Prior to early March 1954, the soldiers observed at Kuncice castle wore visor-type service caps with red violet service color. Numerous low-ranking officers were observed at the billets. A civilian said that the castle housed a school for political officers.⁴ 25X1
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9. [redacted] the term of service was three years [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] a complete regiment of labor troops worked in the coal pits at and around Karviná. [redacted] soldier wore the standard uniform of the Czech Army with black epaulets.² 25X1

10. The troops stationed at the Kuncice castle arrived there in early 1953. The billeting equipment came in from Brno (P 50/N 40) on military motor vehicles. [redacted] The soldiers quartered in the castle who were estimated at 80 men wore army uniforms with red-violet service color. Occasionally, soldiers wearing dog-head insignia on their left upper arms were also observed. 4 and 5 25X1

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1. Comment. [redacted] in September 1953 a school for political officers of PTP units was located at this barracks installation. It is believed that source saw soldiers of this unit. 25X1
2. Comment. It was known previously that numerous military labor units are located in the Ostrava - Karvina coal area. A previous report received in 1951 stated that three PTP battalions were subordinate to one Kamcatka komendatura in Ostrava. It is believed that these battalions are stationed at Orlova, Radvanice and Karvine. The Kamcatka komendatura has possibly been redesignated "regiment." 25X1
3. Comment. On the basis of previous information received from other refugees prior to April 1953, one heavy or medium AAA unit is located at this installation. This unit was still quartered at this installation in March 1954. 25X1
4. Comment. The service color indicates that source probably observed a unit of the VS (Interior Guard) possibly an officer school. 25X1
5. Comment. Except in the Liberec sector, no complete PC units are stationed along the northern border of Czechoslovakia. PC personnel are probably also detailed to the VS officer school since both organizations are subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior and the existence of other joint schools is known. Previous reports indicate that the dog-head insignia are worn on the collars and not on the upper arms. 25X1

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